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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

ERRATUM.

The date of approval of an act to amend "An act granting additional quarantine powers and imposing additional duties upon the Marine-Hospital Service," approved February 15, 1893, published in last week's PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, No. 10, March 8, was erroneously given as March 2, 1901. It should have been *March 3, 1901*.

NEW HYGIENIC LABORATORY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The act of Congress approved March 3, 1901, making appropriations for sundry civil expenses, provides as follows:

For building for laboratory Marine-Hospital Service: For the erection of the necessary buildings and quarters for a laboratory for the investigation of infectious and contagious diseases, and matters pertaining to the public health, under the direction of the Supervising Surgeon-General, thirty-five thousand dollars; and the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to transfer to the Secretary of the Treasury, for use as a site for said laboratory, five acres of the reservation now occupied by the Naval Museum of Hygiene.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

ABSTRACT OF REPLIES RECEIVED IN REPLY TO REQUEST FOR REPORTS ON INFLUENZA (LA GRIPPE).

[Continued from PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.]

ALASKA—*Juneau*.—La grippe became prevalent in Juneau and Douglas about the first week in January, 1901. A low estimate of the number of cases would be 125 to date, with no fatalities directly due to the disease. There have been 8 deaths among the Indians with la grippe as contributing cause. Almost all cases are marked by severe headache and soreness of the scalp, with muscular pains in back and legs. Treatment has been with mild purgatives, followed by salol with symptomatic treatment as indicated.

ARIZONA TERRITORY—*Fort Apache*.—The first case of acute influenza appeared December 30, 1900. During the following thirty days there were about 20 cases of the rheumatic type. There has been no mortality and no cases have occurred since February 6, 1901. Treat-

ment has been rest in bed, light diet, with the administration of coal-tar products and caffeine.

CALIFORNIA—*Eureka*.—About January 10, 1901, a mild form of influenza, catarrhal in type, made its appearance in this locality. Statistics collected from physicians practicing in the town and vicinity, show a total of 65 cases treated, and about as many more are estimated as receiving no treatment. No deaths are known to have occurred from the disease. The treatment has been symptomatic. Sanitary precautions with regard to the care of the sputa and nasal secretions have been advised, but have been indifferently observed. The disease does not appear to have been materially limited in duration but only modified by treatment.

COLORADO—*Denver*.—Influenza began to affect the population about December 20, 1900. It attained its maximum prevalence by January 15, 1901, and has been steadily declining since that date. The true character of the disease was determined by few practitioners. In only 1 case is the Pfeiffer bacillus reported to have been found. Only 11 deaths are reported as directly due to la grippe, but la grippe has undoubtedly been the complicating cause in a large number of deaths from tuberculosis and pneumonia, these diseases having caused an unusually high mortality during the month.

Grand Junction.—A very general epidemic of la grippe prevailed in western Colorado during the month of January, 1901. About one-half the population had the disease to a greater or less extent. The type was not severe in more than 5 per cent of the cases, and no fatal cases are reported. The type was chiefly neuralgic and respiratory at the Indian school; with 185 resident pupils, 35 were ill enough to be admitted to hospital. Treatment has been with quinine and coal-tar derivatives, combined with codeine or Dovers powders. The epidemic began about January 1, and continued unabated until January 25, 1901.

CONNECTICUT—*Ansonia*.—Influenza appeared about January 1, 1901. The type has been mild. The number of cases is not estimated. Mortality from sequellæ is not especially high. Nature of treatment adopted is not reported.

GEORGIA—*Augusta*.—La grippe has been very prevalent for some weeks past and numerous cases still exist.

ILLINOIS—*Rock Island*.—Influenza has been mildly epidemic in this city, as in Moline, Ill, adjoining and in Davenport, Iowa, which is just across the river. The cases are generally of short duration, lasting usually from three to eight days, but longer if complicated. No deaths from la grippe are reported. The type is respiratory, and mild in character. The disease appeared about November 1, 1900, and became prevalent about December 25. There have been about 5,000 cases altogether to date.

INDIANA—*Muncie*.—La grippe has been quite prevalent since December, 1900. There have been about 2,000 cases in a population of 25,000.

Few deaths have been directly traceable to the disease. The catarrhal and neuralgic types have prevailed. Marked prostration has followed many cases.

KANSAS—*Goodland—Sherman County.*—La grippe has prevailed in the county since about December 10, 1900. There have been 5 deaths from the disease, all among old people. About three-fourths of the population have been affected. The type is generally laryngeal and bronchial, with neuralgia and general prostration. Treatment has been with the coal-tar products and asafetida, and strychnine with cough mixture in bronchial cases.

KENTUCKY—*Elkton.*—The first case was observed January 22, 1901. The disease has gradually extended throughout the town. The number of cases is not estimated. Mortality is nil. No sanitary precautions have been taken. The treatment has been with opium combined with iodide of potassium.

Fort Thomas.—No case of influenza or la grippe has been observed in this vicinity during the past fall or winter.

Richmond.—In this (Madison) County, in a population of 25,607, there have been reported 700 cases of influenza or la grippe. Of these, 63 per cent have been mild cases, 20 per cent severe, but uncomplicated; 17 per cent complicated with pneumonia, measles, and bronchitis; mortality, 4 per cent. Treatment has been variable, with stimulants, free purgation, and antipyretics. The disease appeared late in December, 1900, and prevailed for six weeks. The sanitary conditions have been good but not the best, and the weather has been very unfavorable to health.

LOUISIANA—*New Orleans.*—La grippe appeared in October, 1900, and has prevailed extensively during the winter. The death rate from this cause is about three times greater this year than last, but the number of cases can not be estimated. La grippe has prevailed very extensively in North Louisiana during the winter.

MAINE—*Portland.*—A few sporadic cases of la grippe were noticed in the last ten days of December, 1900, but the disease did not assume an epidemic form before January 10, 1901. Since that date it has increased moderately. The type has usually been respiratory. Pneumonia has followed in about 5 cases in a total of 300. Continued physical weakness has been one of the marked features distinguishing it from simple cold. In several instances there were gastro-intestinal symptoms in place of the respiratory. In 1 aged man there was delirium for a week. In 1 case a scarletina rash, disappearing in twenty-four hours, was among the early symptoms. This patient had had scarlet fever earlier in life. One case of facial erysipelas was noted, following on the fourth day after the onset of manifest symptoms of la grippe. A general erythema was a complication of 1 case of influenza at this marine hospital. It is not believed that any immunity to the disease has been conferred by a previous attack, but rather a tendency toward a repeti-

tion of attacks. About 1,000 cases are estimated to have occurred up to February 10, with 3 deaths complicated by pulmonary congestion. The usual treatment is symptomatic, the coal-tar derivatives, and often caffeine being administered, followed by strychnine.

MASSACHUSETTS—*Boston—Long Wharf*.—No influenza prevailing in this section.

Lawrence.—La grippe has prevailed to a considerable extent, in a mild form. No deaths have occurred. The number of cases is not estimated.

North Adams.—Replies have been received from 8 physicians reporting 391 cases treated since December 10, 1900, and many mild cases coming under their observation which were not reported. The disease reached its maximum about January 15, 1901, and is now on the decline. No deaths have been reported. It has been mild in type, and has included the respiratory, gastric, and neuralgic forms. Treatment and general measures were rest, isolation, ventilation, and sanitary precautions with sedatives, tonics, and antipyretics. There is a difference of opinion among physicians in regard to the use of coal-tar remedies.

Quincy.—No available data in regard to influenza are to be obtained. The disease has been very prevalent since February 1, 1901. The type has been varied, being respiratory, intestinal, and rheumatic. Three deaths among old people are reported.

MICHIGAN—*Coldwater*.—About 57 cases of la grippe are reported as treated since November 15, 1900. Of this number 42 were of the respiratory type; 9 were cases of gastro-intestinal character, 6 cases in which cystitis was a pronounced symptom. In nearly all the cases the sympathetic nervous system suffered greatly. All the cases were followed by general prostration. There was only 1 fatal case, which was in the person of a man of 84 years, in whom influenza was followed by general paralysis.

Detroit.—Influenza appeared about December 15, 1900, and has prevailed very generally since that date, although no definite statement can be made as to the exact number of cases. About 30,000 cases are estimated to have occurred during the past two months. The bronchial type appears to be the most prevalent. The treatment reported is free catharsis with calomel, followed by salicylate, quinine, and phenacetin or other coal-tar products for relief of pain; also sulphate of quinine and Dover powders. Isolation and subsequent disinfection, with attention to care of the sputa are not reported.

Grand Rapids.—The disease became prevalent about December 25, 1900, and increased in prevalence for about one month, since which time there has been a gradual recession. The number of cases can not be stated. Those observed have been mainly of the mucous type, resulting in great nervous irritation and prostration. The treatment reported is with gelsemium given in quick doses with hot bath, followed by phosphate of iron if there is cough or lung irritation, and with ammon,

mur, kalamus kali sulph, or kali phos hyosecyamus for persistent cough, and in case of general or nervous prostration with arsenate of quinine and strychnic phos.

MINNESOTA—*Benson*.—La grippe has been and is now prevailing in this locality. The type is very mild. It appeared about December 1, 1900. There have been no deaths and there is no means of estimating the number of cases.

MISSISSIPPI—*Vicksburg*.—La grippe appeared about January 10, 1901. Many of the first cases were gastrointestinal, with sudden onset and often vomiting and purging, with severe pain in stomach and bowels. Others were of bronchial-catarrhal type, with pain in head and back and rigors, followed sometimes with sweating more or less free. It still prevails to some extent, but only in sporadic cases. Early in the outbreak about 2 per cent of the population were affected. No deaths have been due directly to the disease. Opium, purgatives, and salicylate of soda were administered.

MINNESOTA—*Minneapolis*.—La grippe has been very prevalent in this locality. The type has been much the same as in other years, with the possible exception that there have been more cases presenting abdominal symptoms. The number of cases is not estimated. There have been two or three deaths. The date of appearance of the disease is not reported. The treatment is the same as that pursued in former years.

NEW JERSEY—*Hudson County*.—During the present year this county has been singularly free from la grippe. The following table shows the statement of la grippe deaths for the past ten years :

Year.	Popula- tion.	Deaths from—		Year.	Popula- tion.	Deaths from—	
		Acute lung disease.	La grippe.			Acute lung disease.	La grippe.
1890	275, 126	1896	338, 671	1, 123	a 11
1891	283, 855	1, 203	a 79	1897	355, 231	1, 006	b 25
1892	292, 574	1, 001	a 46	1898	379, 608	1, 116	b 37
1893	301, 298	1, 029	a 28	1899	384, 784	1, 081	b 38
1894	310, 022	916	a 18	1900	386, 048	1, 295	b 58
1895	328, 080	1, 041	a 70				

a Hoboken excluded.

b Hoboken included.

Of the 58 deaths certified by physicians during the past year as la grippe, pure and simple, 47 took place in February, March, and April. There were only 3 deaths from this disease in the last seven months of 1900.

In the first three weeks of the present month, ending on the 20th instant, there were 95 acute lung deaths, of which 8 were charged to la grippe directly. This would average about 119 acute lung deaths for the month, 10 of which would be from la grippe purely as certified.

These figures show a much better condition than prevailed in February, March, and April of last year, and are insignificant compared with those of other so-called epidemic years.

These figures are exclusive of Hoboken, except for the years 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900.

Jersey City.—La grippe appeared in this city the latter part of November, 1900, and continued until the beginning of February, 1901. It was largely of the catarrhal type, affecting the upper respiratory tract. Some very intractible neuralgic cases were encountered. A few cases of so-called pneumonic la grippe were reported, in which the characteristic signs of pneumonia were absent until the day of crisis. The number of cases is not estimated, but it was not large. The mortality was nil. The treatment depended upon the type of the disease. Preference was shown for the salicylates and coal-tar derivatives, followed by tonic treatment.

NEW MEXICO—*Albuquerque.*—The disease appeared about December 15, 1900. In the early part of the epidemic the form was rheumatic. A comparative absence of any marked tendency toward the lungs was observed. Within the past month it has been followed by persistent neuralgia, attacking in general the sciatic and tri-germinal nerves. These cases have yielded to free purgation and the use of coal-tar derivatives. No data can be given as to the number of cases or mortality. The latter was not probably more than one-fourth of 1 per cent of the number of cases.

Las Vegas.—La grippe appeared in a light form about December 1, 1900, and has been considerably prevalent throughout this city. It has continued more or less to the present time. The number of cases can not be ascertained, nor the deaths, if any, which were due to the disease. It may, however, be stated generally that 10 per cent of the population has been under its influence in a greater or less degree. It has affected the respiratory tract, or the nervous system, or both. No preventive measures have been adopted, save in individual cases, and the treatment has been with coal-tar preparations.

NEW YORK—*Elmira.*—Influenza appeared in mild form about December 1, 1900, becoming epidemic and of a severe type about December 15. The form was generally respiratory. A certain number of cases were characterized by intestinal infection. The number of cases can not be stated, but a conservative estimate would be about 3,500. Since February 1, 1901, there has been an abatement of the disease, both as to numbers and severity. During the month of January 16 deaths were ascribed to influenza and 16 to pneumonia. Most of the deaths ascribed to the latter cause were probably due primarily to influenza. During the month of February no deaths from influenza have been reported.